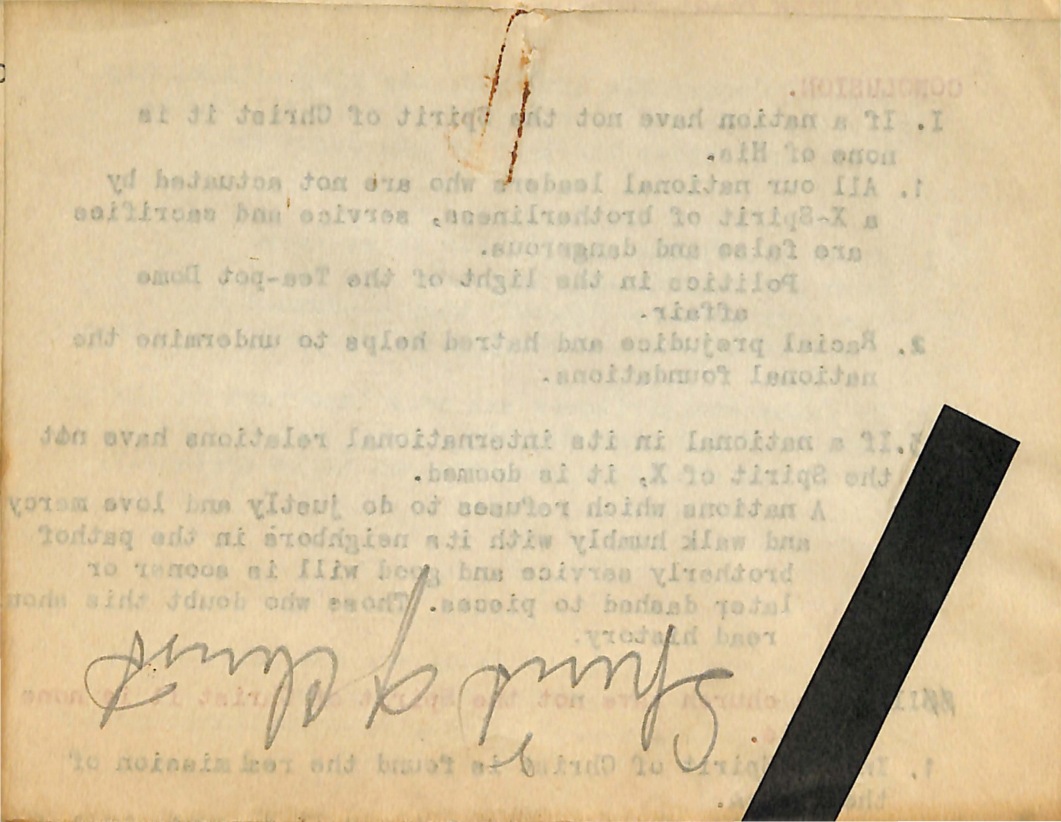

Spirit of Christ

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.

Rom.8:9 If any man hath not the spirit of Christ he is none of His.

Intro. A message from a text that is
simple- a child can read it and take it in
fundamental- positive, dogmatic, radical, solid
axiomatic-a basal truth universally recognized like an axium
Read the text.

Too often we begin with the words of Jesus. They are wonderful; can be found in the N.T. It is easy to repeat them. Yes, the Church possesses the words of Christ. But does the Church possess the Spirit of Christ. This may be a embarrassing question. But if the Church have not the Spirit of Christ, it is none of His.

Sometimes we dont begin with ~~X~~ Christ at all, but with the church- its gov't, its sacraments, its ordinances, its doctrines.
But the first great preacher of Christ din't begin with the church, he always began with Christ.
According to Paul a man may be baptized with water but if not baptized with the Spirit he is none of Christ's. A man may partake of the Lord's Supper but if he has not the Spirit of X, he is none of His. A man may repeat the whole Bible and know all the doctrines but if he has not the Spirit of Christ he has no part with Him.

"Tho I ~~speak~~ speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love (that is, if I have not the Spirit of Christ) I am nothing but noise."
"Tho I have faith so as to remove mountains, and have not the Spirit of X I am nothing."
"Tho I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and have not the Spirit of X it profits me nothing."
"Tho I give my body to be burned and have not the Spirit of X it does not help me at all".

Now, what is this Spirit of X without which all else is as nothing, and only with which can we truly belong to Christ?
There is dispute as to whether X was truly the Son of God: we are not sure of all of Christ's words, but

the soul of Jesus- His attitude, his disposition, his Spirit stands out clearly before us. All the outside world knows the sort of man Jesus was.

I. First of all, the Spirit of Jesus was brotherly.

1. Jesus was friend and brother to everyone.
Such a fraternal spirit amazed the world.
The scribes were shocked- they condemned X for eating and drinking with publicans and sinners.

2. To Jesus Brotherliness was more important in the the sight of God than Worship.
It is far easier to worship than to be brotherly.
"If thou bring thy gift at the altar and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against you, leave there thy gift and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, then come and offer thy gift."

3. The fraternal spirit of Jesus was not restricted.
How readily we love those who love us.
Fraternities, social clicks, denominational groups.
"If ye love them that love you what reward have you? Do not even the publicans the same?"
Jesus showed his fraternal spirit to the stranger, to the poor and unfortumate, to the castaway, to the foreigner.

4. Brotherliness expresses itself in fellowship and co-operation. No working against one another. No snobs or "better-than-thou's" in the Body of Christ.

II. Brotherliness leads to SERVICE.

1. Christ was a servant. He glorified the very word "servant". "He went about doing good".

2. At the end of his life, Christ, with a basin of water in one hand and a towel in the other, said,"I have given you an example"
The writer of the Fourth Gospel has nothing to say about the sacrament of bread and wine, but fixes his attention upon the Sacrament of the Basis and Towel.
Show them the Harmony of the Gospels.

III. Brotherly service finds its climax in Sacrifice.

1. The spirit of Jesus is the spirit of sacrifice.
There can be no brotherliness and service without sacrifice.

2. The fundamental principle of Xty is self-denial.
Jesus was always laying down his life for others.
Put Brotherliness, service and sacrifice together, and you have Love, the Love of God, the Spirit of Christ

CONCLUSION.

I. If a nation have not the Spirit of Christ it is none of His.

1. All our national leaders who are not actuated by a X-Spirit of brotherliness, service and sacrifiee are false and dangerous.

Politics in the light of the Tea-pot Dome affair.

2. Racial prejudice and hatred helps to undermine the national foundations.

3. If a national in its international relations have not the Spirit of X, it is doomed.

A nations which refuses to do justly and love mercy and walk humbly with its neighbors in the pathof brotherly service and good will is sooner or later dashed to pieces. Those who doubt this shou read history.

II. If a church have not the Spirit of Christ it is none of His.

1. In the Spirit of Christ is found the real mission of the Church.

a. The world of nations is sick and needs to be healed with the Spirit of Christ. This is the task of Christ's Church.

b. The local church must manifest brotherliness thru-out the community in which it stands, must render helpful service to the point of self-denial and sacrifice in order to awaken the Spirit of Christ in others.

c. This means every individual Xn in the church must exercise the Spirit of Christ daily in every walk of life.

When we learn to think in terms of Christ, we begin to think in terms of justice and mercy, good will and sacrificing service